WAVES OF CHANGE
PART FOUR
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
ISSUE 263
Archie COMICS
SEGA
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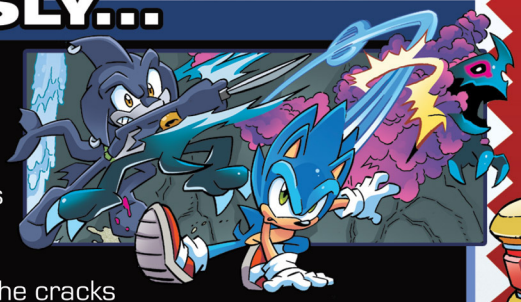
Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PREVIOUSLY...

IMPERFECT CHAOS!



The Shattered World Crisis is upon us! The planet's crust has shattered apart, and monsters crawl from the cracks every night! Sonic and the Freedom Fighters are on the hunt for the seven Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples. By combining their power, they hope to restore the world to order.

The search has brought Sonic, Amy and Rotor to the undersea city of Meropis. There they met the priestess Coral, who was being tormented by the very citizens she'd sworn to protect. The result: the city's protective shield fell!

Now Meropis is overrun with ravenous monsters! To make matters worse, Sonic and Rotor are drowning as they fall before the might of the malicious Dark Guardian...

WHO'S WHO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
WORLD FAMOUS HERO

AMY ROSE
HAMMER-SWINGING HEROINE
& ROTOR THE WALRUS
BRAINY, BRAWNY HERO

CORAL THE BETTA
TEMPLE PRIESTESS
& RAZOR THE SHARK
TEMPLE DEFENDER

???

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MEROPIS--CITY UNDER SIEGE!
WAVES OF CHANGE
Part Four:
DIVINE WATERS
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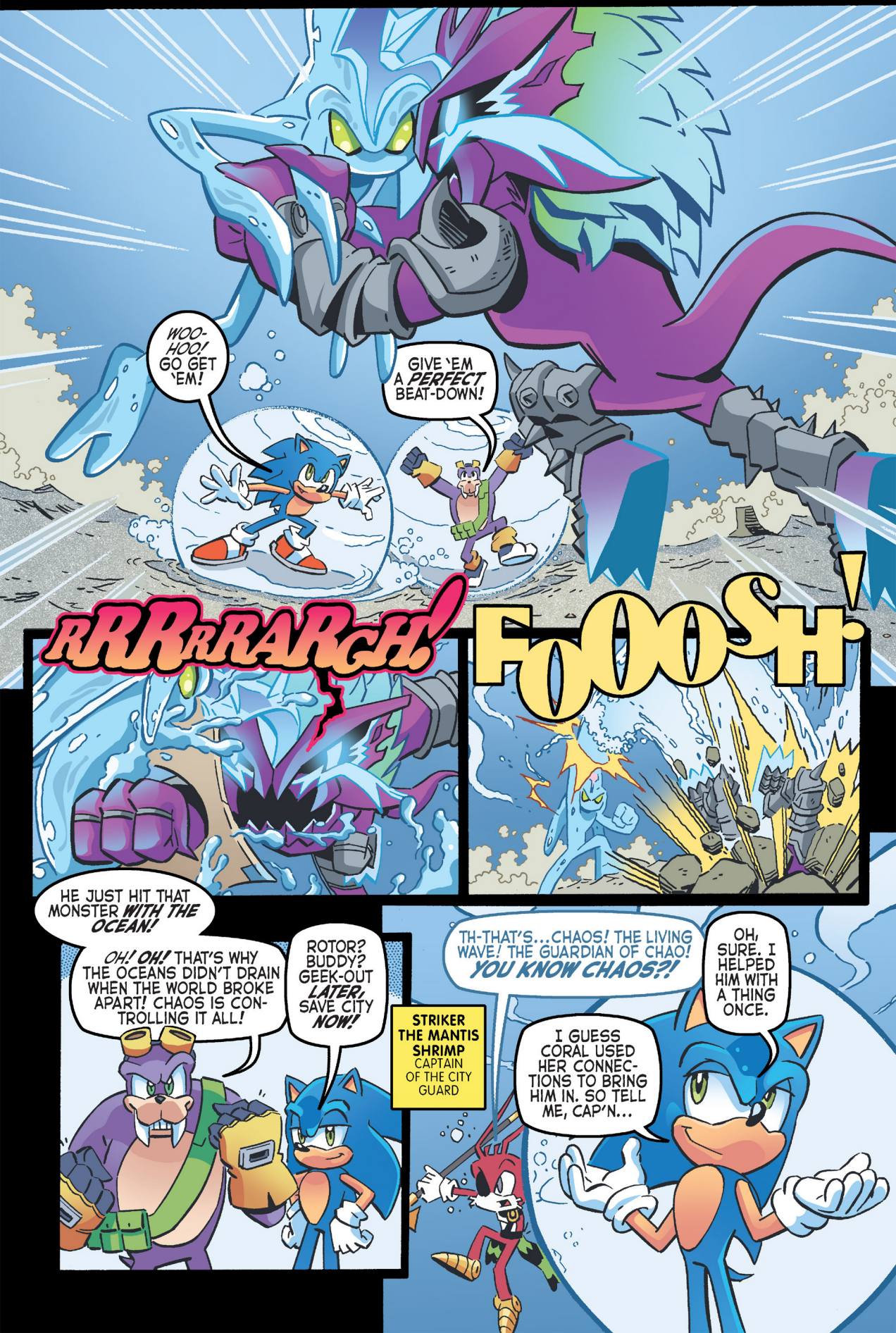
ROTOR
GREAT SWIMMER--BUT STILL DROWNING!
DARK GUARDIAN
COMMANDER OF MONSTERS
RUNNING --OUT OF-- AIR!
BUTT --GETTING-- KICKED!
I'M --LOSING-- IT!!!
SONIC
FAST ON LAND--HOPELESS UNDERWATER

IF I'M-- GOING DOWN-- I'M GONNA --!
RRRORGH!
GLUD
I...WON'T...

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY EUSEBES SHRINE...
RAZOR! THE AIR CHARMS SONIC AND ROTOR TOOK MIGHT HAVE RUN OUT BY NOW!
PEARLY
PRIESTESS IN TRAINING
CRUSHER
RAZOR'S CHAO BUDDY
AMY ROSE
WARRIOR WOMAN
PIKO!
KINDA GOT MY HANDS FULL HERE, SQUIRT!
POOF!
RAZOR
CORAL'S SWORN PROTECTOR
RAZOR--SONIC NEEDS ME! IF I TAKE AN AIR CH--!
MORE ARE COMING THROUGH THE CEILING!
GUARD PEARLY AND THE CHAO! I'LL COVER THE TEMPLE! WE HAVE TO HOLD OUT--

"--UNTIL CORAL FINISHES THE RITES!"
THE RITES ARE FAILING, THE MYSTIC MELODY ISN'T WORKING...IF ONLY I HADN'T FAILED AQUARIUS...
CORAL PRIESTESS UNDER PRESSURE
O SPIRITS! PLEASE HEAR ME! PLEASE DON'T LET MY FAILINGS DOOM SO MANY OTHERS! WE NEED A MIRACLE! I'M BEGGING YOU!
O PRIESTESS--FORGIVE ME FOR NOT ANSWERING YOU SOONER. THE DARK POWERS HINDER SPIRIT AND MORTAL ALIKE.
YOU HAVE FAILED NO ONE. AND TAKE HEART...
"...FOR HELP IS ON THE WAY!"
=GASP!!!=
OH, SNAP!
CHAOS?!
CHAOS
THE WATER GOD (SOMETIMES "OF DESTRUCTION")


WOO-HOO! GO GET 'EM!
GIVE 'EM A PERFECT BEAT-DOWN!
RRRRRARGH!
FOOOSH!
HE JUST HIT THAT MONSTER WITH THE OCEAN!
OH! OH! THAT'S WHY THE OCEANS DIDN'T DRAIN WHEN THE WORLD BROKE APART! CHAOS IS CONTROLLING IT ALL!
ROTOR? BUDDY? GEEK-OUT LATER, SAVE CITY NOW!
STRIKER THE MANTIS SHRIMP CAPTAIN OF THE CITY GUARD
TH-THAT'S...CHAOS! THE LIVING WAVE! THE GUARDIAN OF CHAO! YOU KNOW CHAOS?!
OH, SURE. I HELPED HIM WITH A THING ONCE.
I GUESS CORAL USED HER CONNECTIONS TO BRING HIM IN. SO TELL ME, CAP'N...

"...YOU STILL THINK CORAL'S A LOUSY PRIESTESS?"
NO, CRUSHER! RUN!
GRRRR!
LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE, DARN IT!
POWF!
POWF!
POWF!
SECURE THE TEMPLE! PROTECT THE PRIESTESS! YOU HEARD THE CAPTAIN--SHOW THE MONSTERS NO MERCY!
LIEUTENANT...ECHO, RIGHT? YOU CAME TO BACK US UP!
CAPTAIN STRIKER SENT US. IT...WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG FOR US TO LEAVE THE SHRINE TO FEND FOR ITSELF.
WITH YOU HERE, I CAN GO TO SONIC AND--!
YOU'D BE OVERWHELMED BEFORE YOU REACHED THE CITY! I CAN'T SPARE YOU AN ESCORT!
SHE'S RIGHT ...I'M NEEDED HERE.
SONIC WILL FIND A WAY--HE ALWAYS DOES.
PIKO!
CORAL, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING IN THERE...

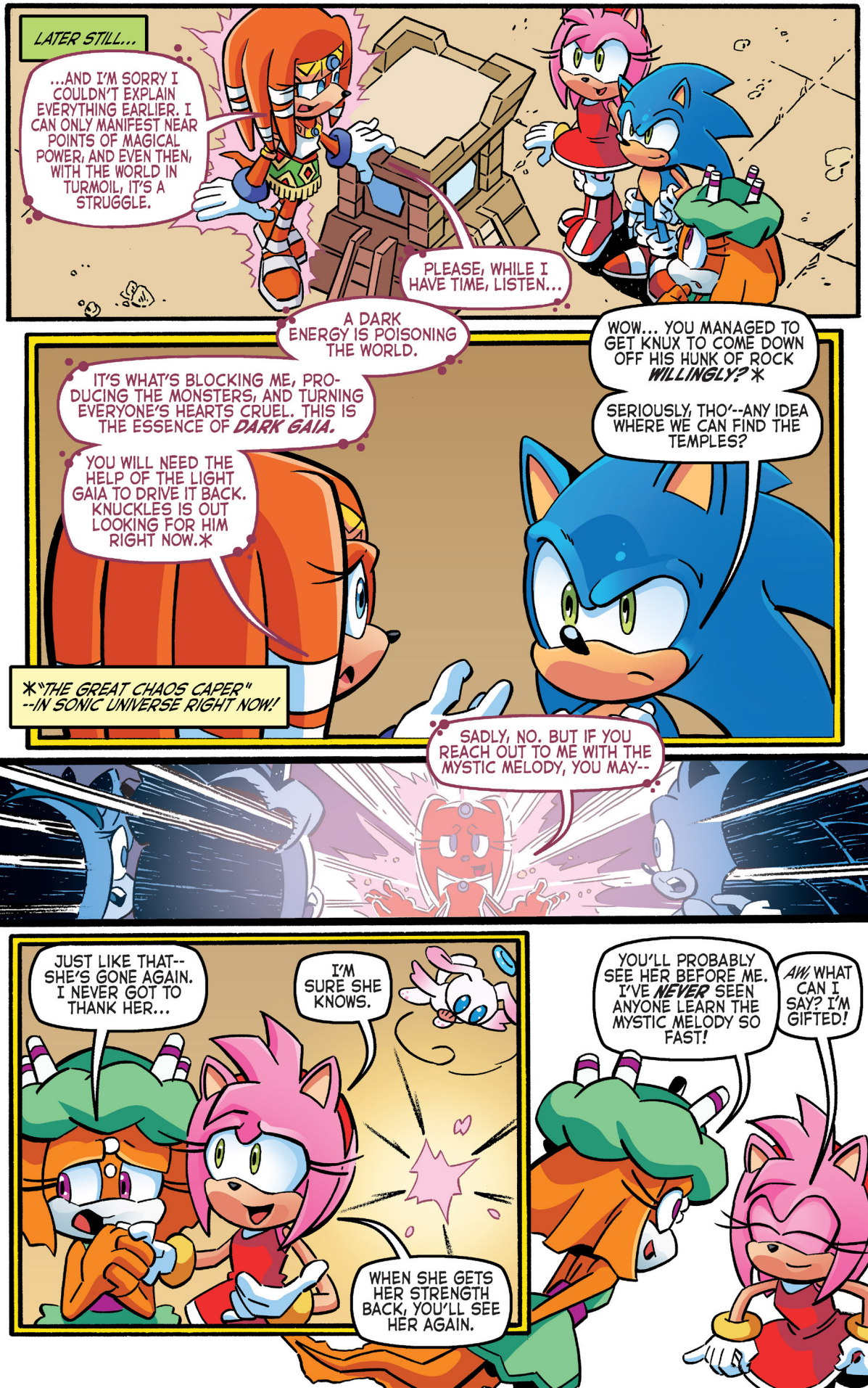
"...PICK UP THE PACE!"
AQUARIUS! YOU'RE ALIVE! OH, THANK YOU, SPIRIT! YOU SAVED HER!
AQUARIUS NEWLY AWAKENED ANGEL CHAO!
NO, PRIESTESS--THIS WAS ALL YOUR DOING!
"AS CHAO GROW, THEY TAKE ON MANY TRAITS. AT THE END OF THEIR CYCLE, THEY ENTER A COCOON AND ARE REBORN--THIS YOU KNOW..."
...BUT IF A CHAO IS CARED FOR EXCEPTIONALLY WELL--JUST AS YOU AND THE PREVIOUS PRIESTESSES HAVE DONE--IT WILL EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING SPECIAL--ETERNAL!
WITH AQUARIUS... I-I CAN RESTORE THE CITY'S PROTECTION!
I'LL NEED PEARLY'S HELP! A-AND WILL YOU JOIN US, SPIRIT? PLEASE?!
I WOULD BE HONORED. AND PLEASE...
...CALL ME TIKAL.

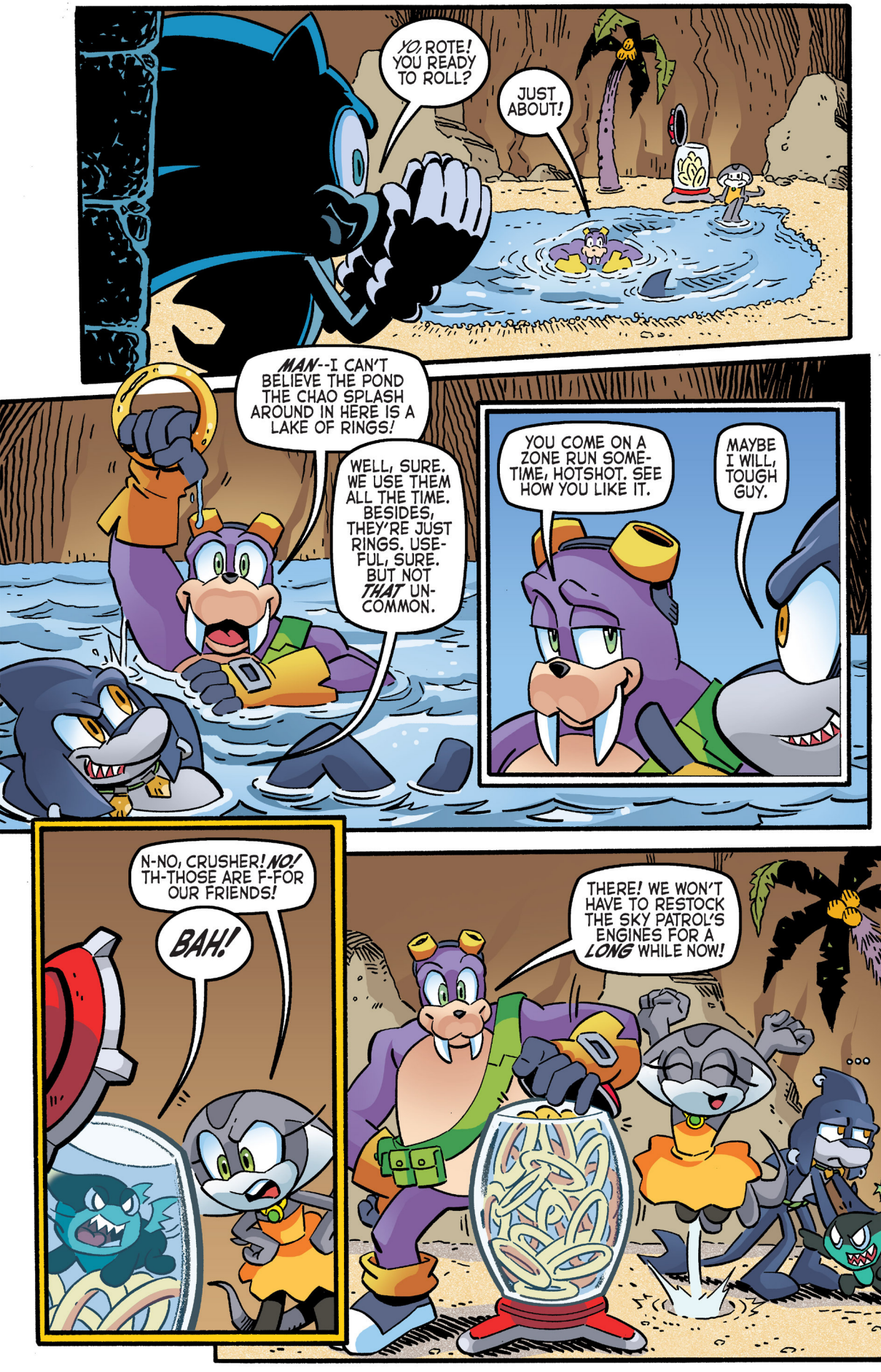
RAZOR! I NEED PEARLY FOR THE RITES!
UH... SURE, IF YOU SAY SO. ONE TWERP DELIVERY COMING UP!
EEK?!
C'MON, SQUIRT! KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
PIKO!
IS THAT AQUARIUS?
WHO'S THIS LADY?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
PEARLY-- DEAR? I WILL ANSWER ALL THAT LATER. I NEED YOU TO PERFORM THE RITES WITH US JUST LIKE I SHOWED YOU.

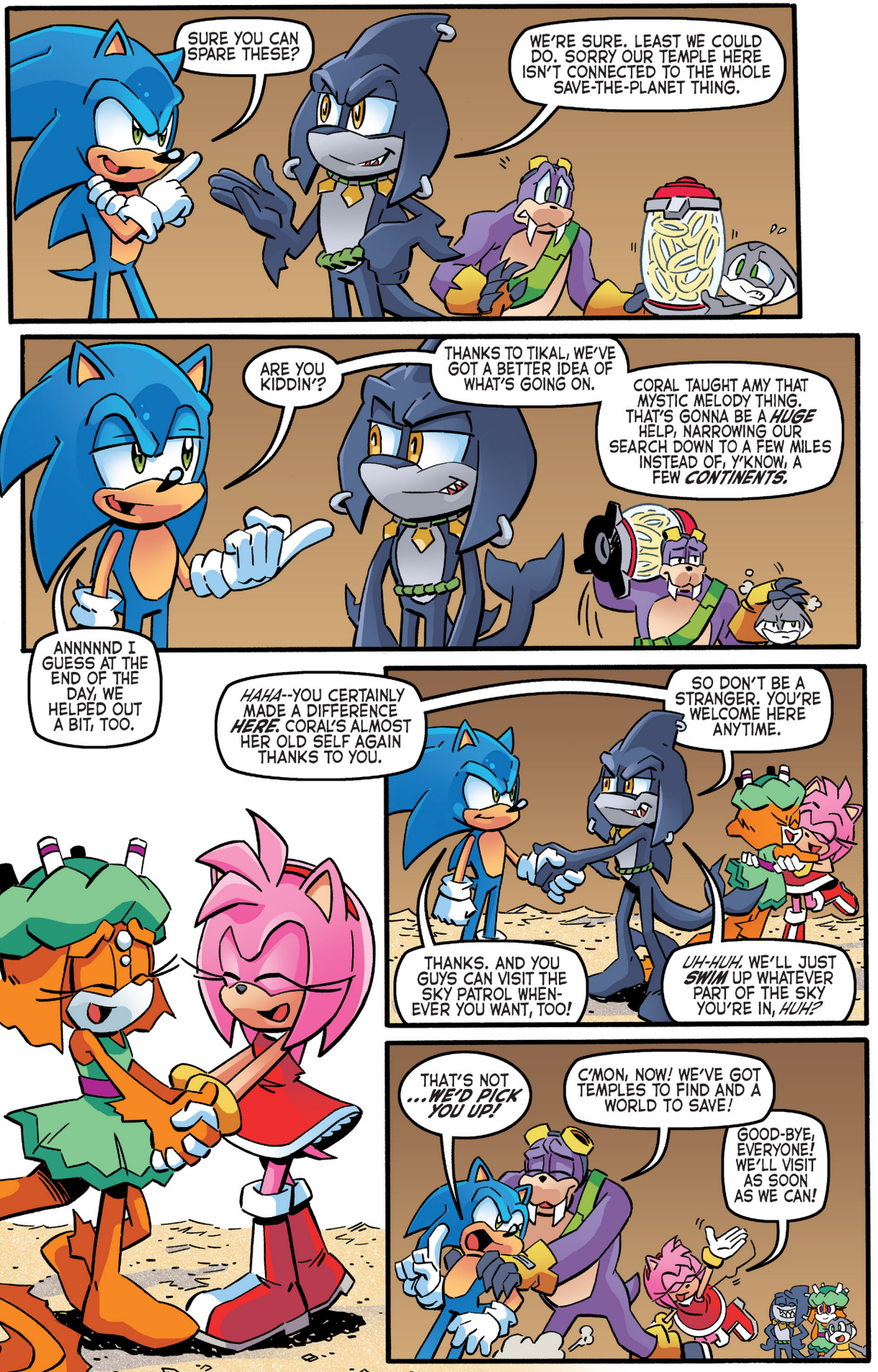
WH-WHAT IF I MESS UP?
I LET MY OWN SELF-DOUBT STOP ME FROM DOING MY DUTY.
NO MORE.
I KNOW WE CAN DO IT.
O-OKAY...
FWA-BOOM!
POOF!
POOF!
POOF!
WHAT THE--?

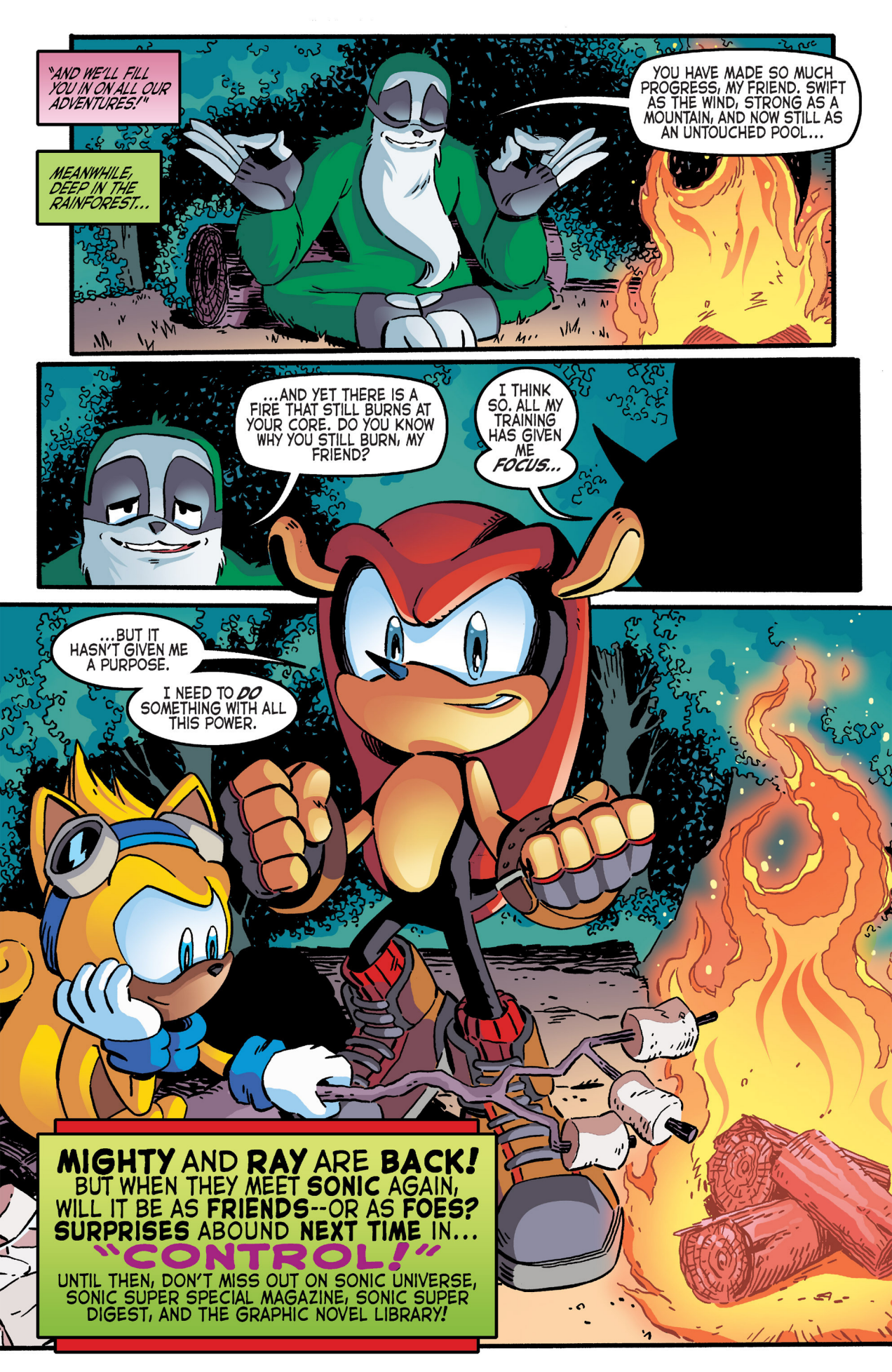
VWOOSH!
POMF
POMF
POMF
POMF
TOUGH GUY, HUH?
LET'S SHOW HIM THE WAY OUT.
KAPOMF
RRRRRARGH!
THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP, BIG GUY. THINK YOU CAN STICK AROUND FOR A CELEBRITY APPEARANCE?
?
CLONK!

AND SO...
...SO THEN I RAN THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS AGAINST OUR OWN AND COMPARED WATER SAMPLES.
YOUR SPIKE IN POLLUTION IS COMING FROM THE TWO CRASHED EGG CARRIERS--*NOT* BECAUSE OF CORAL.
THE OCEAN CURRENTS SENT IT ALL STRAIGHT TO THE CITY.
AND SINCE I MORE-OR-LESS CRASHED THE FIRST ONE...*
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS PROMISE TO HELP YOU WITH THE CLEAN-UP.
*SONIC ADVENTURE --THE GAME.
IT IS A NOBLE OFFER, BUT WE RESPECTFULLY DECLINE. YOU'VE ALREADY DONE *SO MUCH* FOR US! YOU HELPED DRIVE BACK THE MONSTER HORDE...
...AND SHOWED US THE ERROR IN OUR JUDGMENT. WE WERE GRAVELY MISTAKEN IN PLACING SO MUCH BLAME UPON CORAL.
PRIESTESS, WE HUMBLY ASK YOU TO RESUME YOUR RIGHTFUL POSITION...
...AND BEG THE PARDON OF THE MIGHTY CHAOS!
THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE. I CHERISH MY DUTIES AND WILL HAPPILY RETURN TO THEM.
AND... *ERM* ...CHAOS SAYS ALL IS FORGIVEN. (I THINK.)


LATER STILL...
...AND I'M SORRY I COULDN'T EXPLAIN EVERYTHING EARLIER. I CAN ONLY MANIFEST NEAR POINTS OF MAGICAL POWER, AND EVEN THEN, WITH THE WORLD IN TURMOIL, IT'S A STRUGGLE.
PLEASE, WHILE I HAVE TIME, LISTEN...
A DARK ENERGY IS POISONING THE WORLD.
IT'S WHAT'S BLOCKING ME, PRODUCING THE MONSTERS, AND TURNING EVERYONE'S HEARTS CRUEL. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF DARK GAIA.
YOU WILL NEED THE HELP OF THE LIGHT GAIA TO DRIVE IT BACK. KNUCKLES IS OUT LOOKING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.*
WOW... YOU MANAGED TO GET KNUX TO COME DOWN OFF HIS HUNK OF ROCK WILLINGLY?*
SERIOUSLY, THO'--ANY IDEA WHERE WE CAN FIND THE TEMPLES?
*"THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER" --IN SONIC UNIVERSE RIGHT NOW!
SADLY, NO. BUT IF YOU REACH OUT TO ME WITH THE MYSTIC MELODY, YOU MAY--
JUST LIKE THAT-- SHE'S GONE AGAIN. I NEVER GOT TO THANK HER...
I'M SURE SHE KNOWS.
WHEN SHE GETS HER STRENGTH BACK, YOU'LL SEE HER AGAIN.
YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE HER BEFORE ME. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LEARN THE MYSTIC MELODY SO FAST!
AW, WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M GIFTED!


YO, ROTE! YOU READY TO ROLL?
JUST ABOUT!
MAN--I CAN'T BELIEVE THE POND THE CHAO SPLASH AROUND IN HERE IS A LAKE OF RINGS!
WELL, SURE. WE USE THEM ALL THE TIME. BESIDES, THEY'RE JUST RINGS. USEFUL, SURE. BUT NOT THAT UNCOMMON.
YOU COME ON A ZONE RUN SOMETIME, HOTSHOT. SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT.
MAYBE I WILL, TOUGH GUY.
N-NO, CRUSHER! NO! TH-THOSE ARE F-FOR OUR FRIENDS!
BAH!
THERE! WE WON'T HAVE TO RESTOCK THE SKY PATROL'S ENGINES FOR A LONG WHILE NOW!

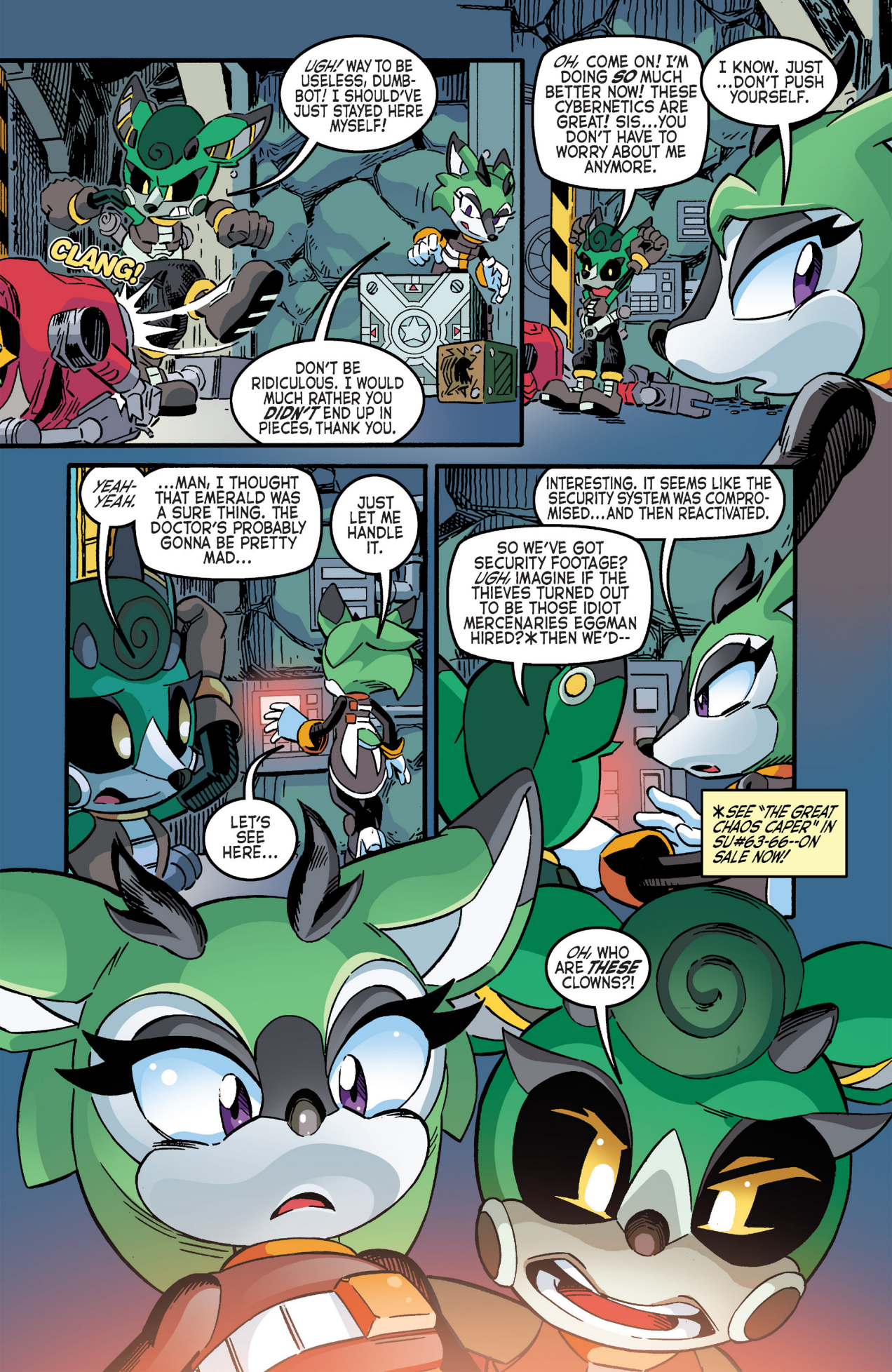

SURE YOU CAN SPARE THESE?
WE'RE SURE. LEAST WE COULD DO. SORRY OUR TEMPLE HERE ISN'T CONNECTED TO THE WHOLE SAVE-THE-PLANET THING.
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?
THANKS TO TIKAL, WE'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON.
CORAL TAUGHT AMY THAT MYSTIC MELODY THING. THAT'S GONNA BE A HUGE HELP, NARROWING OUR SEARCH DOWN TO A FEW MILES INSTEAD OF, Y'KNOW, A FEW CONTINENTS.
ANNNNND I GUESS AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE HELPED OUT A BIT, TOO.
HAHA--YOU CERTAINLY MADE A DIFFERENCE HERE. CORAL'S ALMOST HER OLD SELF AGAIN THANKS TO YOU.
SO DON'T BE A STRANGER. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE ANYTIME.
THANKS. AND YOU GUYS CAN VISIT THE SKY PATROL WHENEVER YOU WANT, TOO!
UH-HUH. WE'LL JUST SWIM UP WHATEVER PART OF THE SKY YOU'RE IN, HUH?
THAT'S NOT ...WE'D PICK YOU UP!
C'MON, NOW! WE'VE GOT TEMPLES TO FIND AND A WORLD TO SAVE!
GOOD-BYE, EVERYONE! WE'LL VISIT AS SOON AS WE CAN!

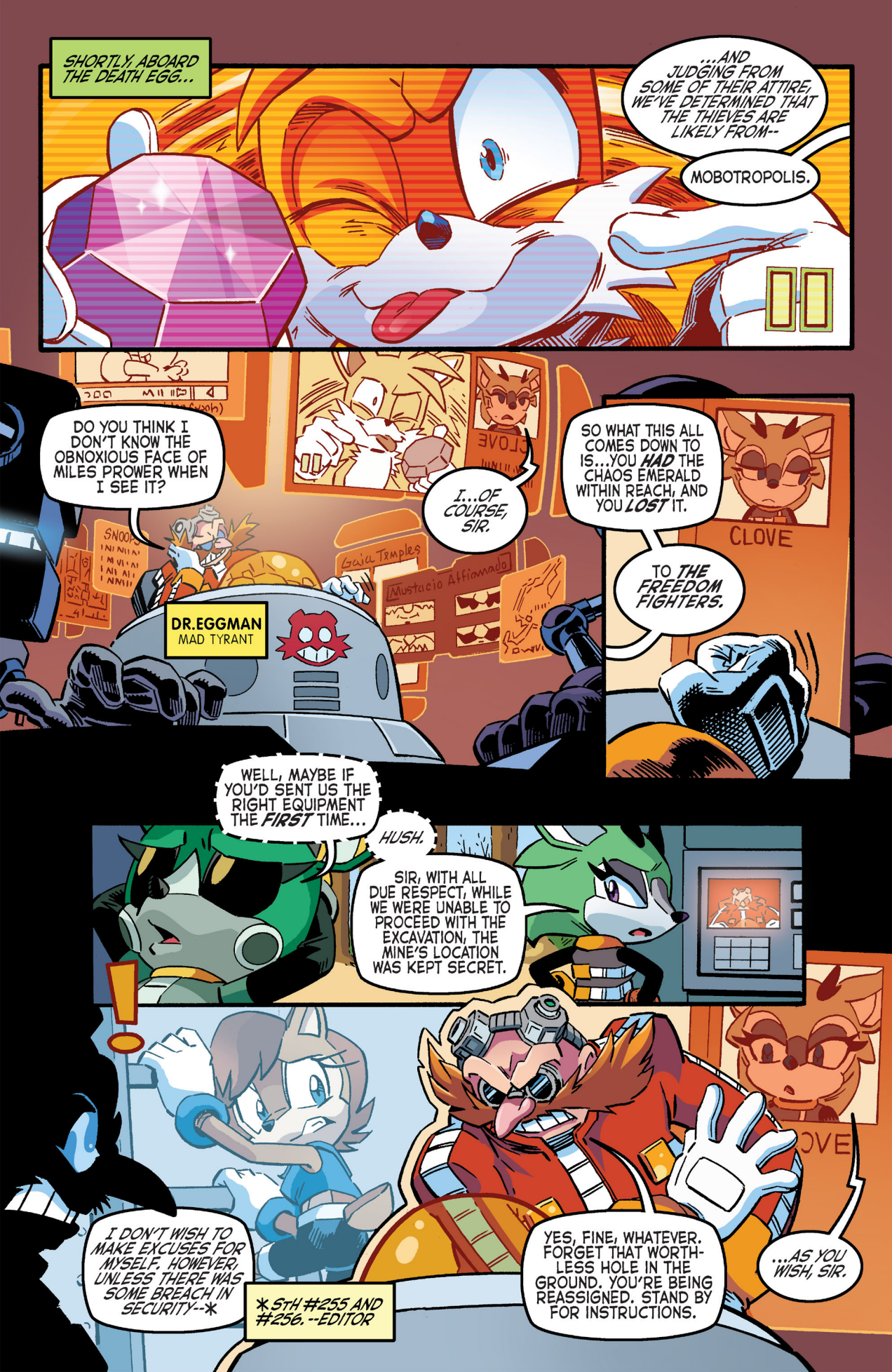

"AND WE'LL FILL YOU IN ON ALL OUR ADVENTURES!"
MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE RAINFOREST...
YOU HAVE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS, MY FRIEND. SWIFT AS THE WIND, STRONG AS A MOUNTAIN, AND NOW STILL AS AN UNTOUCHED POOL...
...AND YET THERE IS A FIRE THAT STILL BURNS AT YOUR CORE. DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU STILL BURN, MY FRIEND?
I THINK SO. ALL MY TRAINING HAS GIVEN ME FOCUS...
...BUT IT HASN'T GIVEN ME A PURPOSE.
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITH ALL THIS POWER.
MIGHTY AND RAY ARE BACK! BUT WHEN THEY MEET SONIC AGAIN, WILL IT BE AS FRIENDS--OR AS FOES? SURPRISES ABOUND NEXT TIME IN...
"CONTROL!"
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST, AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

NO, NO, NO! WHAT HAPPENED?! NO ONE ELSE WAS EVEN SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE! WHAT IF THEY TOOK--
CALM DOWN.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK. CAREFULLY.
HMPH. THAT BODES WELL.
WHOEVER BROKE IN IS LIKELY LONG GONE BY NOW, AND THE CHAOS EMERALD WITH THEM.
MAYBE THEY COULDN'T REACH IT, LIKE US...?
MAYBE, BUT I DOUBT IT. WHAT ELSE WOULD SOMEONE HAVE TO COME HERE FOR?
LET'S CHECK THE SECURITY LOGS.
CASSIA and CLOVE
EGG BOSSES

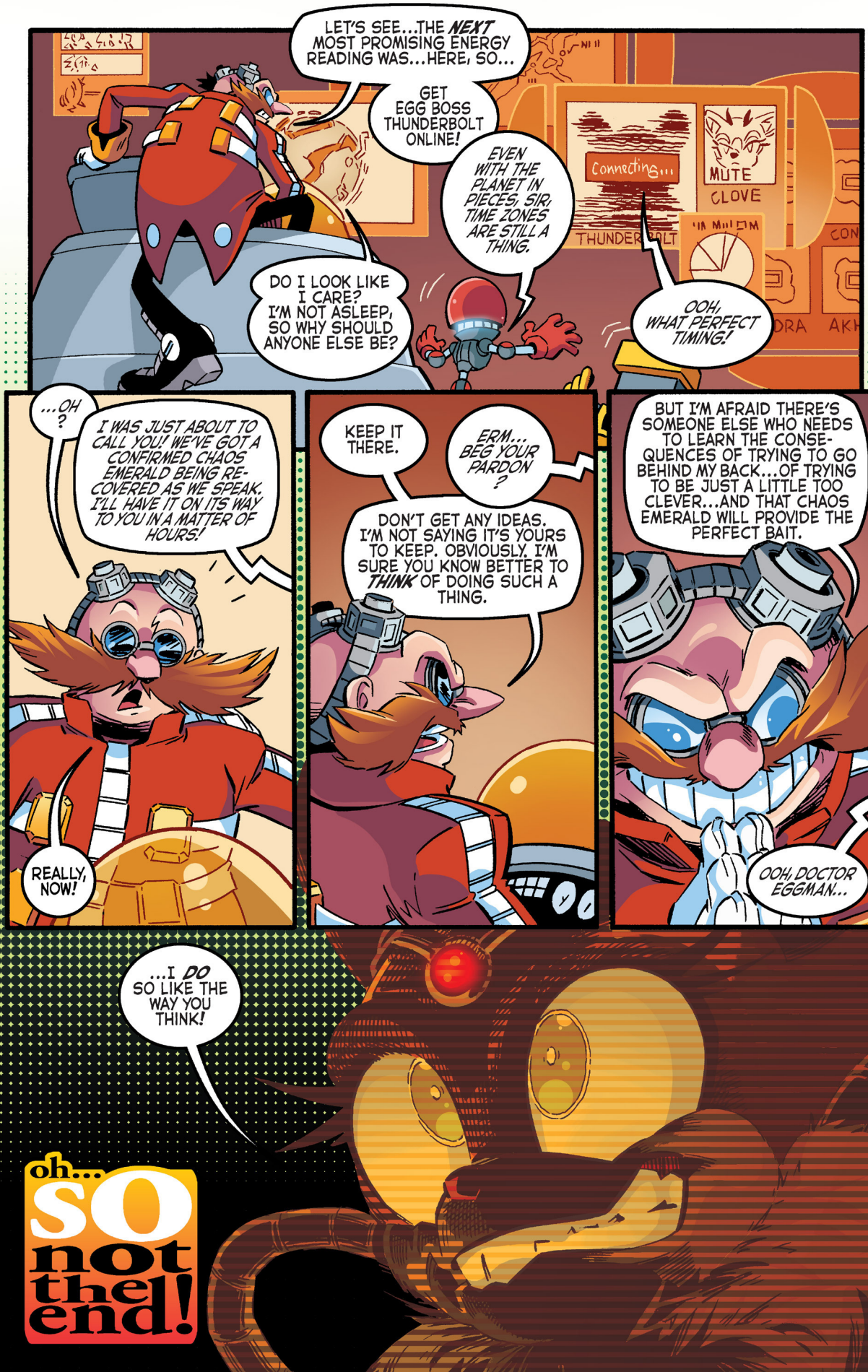
Consequences

SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER / PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY / INKS: TERRY AUSTIN / COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA / LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN


UGH! WAY TO BE USELESS, DUMB-BOT! I SHOULD'VE JUST STAYED HERE MYSELF!
CLANG!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I WOULD MUCH RATHER YOU DIDN'T END UP IN PIECES, THANK YOU.
OH, COME ON! I'M DOING SO MUCH BETTER NOW! THESE CYBERNETICS ARE GREAT! SIS...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE.
I KNOW. JUST ...DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
YEAH-YEAH.
...MAN, I THOUGHT THAT EMERALD WAS A SURE THING. THE DOCTOR'S PROBABLY GONNA BE PRETTY MAD...
JUST LET ME HANDLE IT.
LET'S SEE HERE...
INTERESTING. IT SEEMS LIKE THE SECURITY SYSTEM WAS COMPROMISED...AND THEN REACTIVATED.
SO WE'VE GOT SECURITY FOOTAGE? UGH, IMAGINE IF THE THIEVES TURNED OUT TO BE THOSE IDIOT MERCENARIES EGGMAN HIRED?* THEN WE'D--
*SEE "THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER" IN SU#63-66--ON SALE NOW!
OH, WHO ARE THESE CLOWNS?!


SHORTLY, ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
...AND JUDGING FROM SOME OF THEIR ATTIRE, WE'VE DETERMINED THAT THE THIEVES ARE LIKELY FROM--
MOBOTROPOLIS.
DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THE OBNOXIOUS FACE OF MILES PROWER WHEN I SEE IT?
I...OF COURSE, SIR.
DR.EGGMAN
MAD TYRANT
SO WHAT THIS ALL COMES DOWN TO IS...YOU HAD THE CHAOS EMERALD WITHIN REACH, AND YOU LOST IT.
CLOVE
TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
WELL, MAYBE IF YOU'D SENT US THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT THE FIRST TIME...
HUSH.
SIR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHILE WE WERE UNABLE TO PROCEED WITH THE EXCAVATION, THE MINE'S LOCATION WAS KEPT SECRET.
I DON'T WISH TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR MYSELF. HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE WAS SOME BREACH IN SECURITY--*
*STH #255 AND #256. --EDITOR
YES, FINE, WHATEVER. FORGET THAT WORTHLESS HOLE IN THE GROUND. YOU'RE BEING REASSIGNED. STAND BY FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
...AS YOU WISH, SIR.

ORBOT! CUBOT!
PULL UP THE FILES FOR MY RESOURCE ACQUISITION PROJECT.
OH! TO FIND ANOTHER CHAOS EMERALD? I GUESS YOU NEED TO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE SINCE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TOOK THIS ONE, HUH?
PHAGE
Tracking4
YES. YES, THEY DID. AND HOW DID THEY KNOW TO LOOK THERE?
...CRYSTAL BALL?
IMPECCABLE DOWSING SKILLS?
BECAUSE WHILE I WAS STUCK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS BROKEN PIÑATA OF A PLANET, THAT POMPOUS PRINCESS SNUCK ABOARD THE DEATH EGG AND STOLE MY FILES!*
*SEE ISSUE #255.
NOT ONLY DID THEY USE MY RESOURCES AGAINST ME, THEY TOOK MY CHAOS EMERALD RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER MY NOSE!
WELL... AT LEAST YOU KNOW WHERE THE EMERALD IS. SHALL WE MOUNT AN ATTACK TO RECLAIM IT?
BAH! I CAN TAKE IT BACK AT ANY TIME! AND IF THEY THINK THEY CAN USE MY DATA TO FIND ANY OTHERS...
HMMM...
...SIR?
WHEN I TOLD YOU TO BRING UP THOSE FILES, DID YOU THINK I MEANT YESTERDAY?
...ER...IS THAT AN ACTUAL QUESTION, OR A RHETORICAL ONE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...ARE YOU ACTUALLY ASKING FOR OUR OPINION, OR IS THAT ALSO A RHETORI--
GET TO WORK!


LET'S SEE...THE NEXT MOST PROMISING ENERGY READING WAS...HERE, SO...
GET EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT ONLINE!
EVEN WITH THE PLANET IN PIECES, SIR, TIME ZONES ARE STILL A THING.
DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE? I'M NOT ASLEEP, SO WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE BE?
Connecting...
MUTE
CLOVE
OOH, WHAT PERFECT TIMING!
...OH?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU! WE'VE GOT A CONFIRMED CHAOS EMERALD BEING RE-COVERED AS WE SPEAK. I'LL HAVE IT ON ITS WAY TO YOU IN A MATTER OF HOURS!
REALLY, NOW!
KEEP IT THERE.
ERM... BEG YOUR PARDON?
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS. I'M NOT SAYING IT'S YOURS TO KEEP. OBVIOUSLY, I'M SURE YOU KNOW BETTER TO THINK OF DOING SUCH A THING.
BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS TO LEARN THE CONSE-QUENCES OF TRYING TO GO BEHIND MY BACK...OF TRYING TO BE JUST A LITTLE TOO CLEVER...AND THAT CHAOS EMERALD WILL PROVIDE THE PERFECT BAIT.
OOH, DOCTOR EGGMAN...
...I DO SO LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK!
oh... SO not the end!

SONIC-GRAMS FAN ART

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Barrington R. from Pennsylvania

Sabrina F. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

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OFF PANEL

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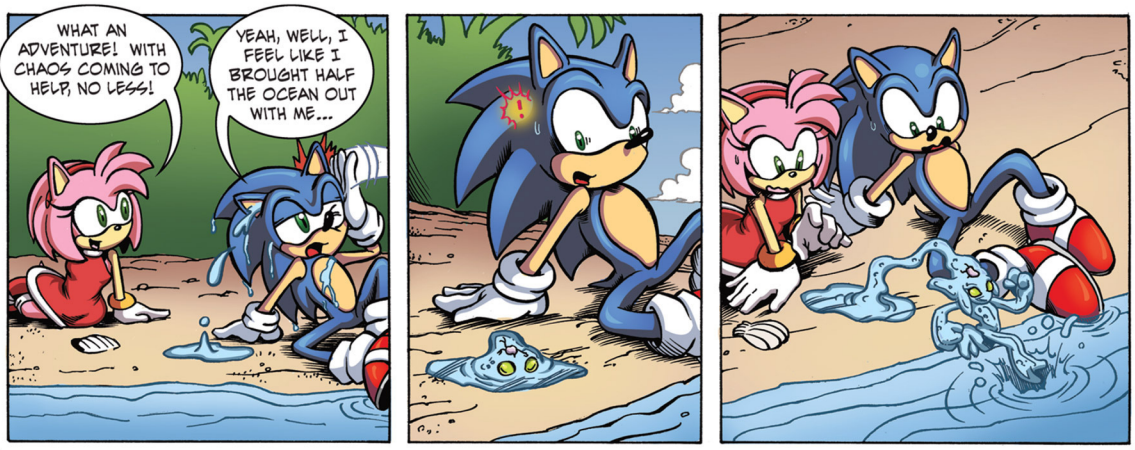

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hello guys, back again with the usual.

Talk about getting right to the point! And here I thought Sonic was the fastest!

HEY! I heard that!

Firstly, will we see more of this underwater culture after the Waves of Change story is over? I really want to see more of these characters!

This definitely will not be last you see of Razor, Coral, Pearly and the rest of the Meropis crew!

Secondly, what is the next Sonic game you want to adapt after Sonic Unleashed?

Personally, I would love to explore the characters and settings of "Lost World," but we still have much to cover with the shattered world crisis. One game at a time, right?

Finally, what do you guys think of Sonic Boom so far?

Samuel sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Samuel! We are super duper pumped for Sonic Boom and can't wait to dive into the Boomiverse! Paul and I have even wrapped our arms with sports tape in anticipation of the awesomeness!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I couldn't have picked a better time to subscribe to the Sonic the Hedgehog comics than now with the Sonic Unleashed story arc! I'm a bit of a fangirl when it comes to the Werehog, (or any Sonic form, really, but who doesn't love the fluff?) so I'm especially looking forward to the upcoming comics!

Glad to hear you're aboard our radical train! The fluff is awesome and so are you!

I'll be checking my mailbox frequently!

Okay! Just be careful if you check it after sunset, the Dark Gaia monsters may be on the prowl!

I've always loved the comics for giving Sonic a backstory and life outside of the games. I'll keep reading as long as they keep being published! Keep up the great work!

Corinne S. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Corinne! It's fans like you that give us the support we need to keep making the comics. As long as there are Sonic comic fans there will always be Sonic comics!

See y'all next month for the first of an epic two-part story, "Control"!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #263

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EVAN STANLEY

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